

Knightdale Parks and Recreation
5-6 MODIFIED-T-BALL LEAGUE RULES

1.0 Purpose

The purpose of the league is to establish a program organized and administered by professionals, and conducted by volunteers, that will provide area youth with a wholesome opportunity for personal satisfaction and enjoyment through the development of basic physical skills. Through the discipline of organized sports, participants will be introduced to the positive values of team play and sportsmanship within an atmosphere that is safe and fun.

2.0 League Management

2.1 Governing authority for the league shall be vested in the *Knightdale Parks and Recreation Department* and the *Baseball Sports Advisory Committee*.

2.2 The *Program Director* shall appoint all committees/boards deemed necessary for the efficient operation of the league.

2.2.1 The *Parks & Recreation Department* shall accept applications for positions on the *Baseball Sports Advisory Committee* beginning in January of each year; appointments are for a period of one (1) season and may be extended with the approval of the *Program Director*.

2.2.2 The *Baseball Sports Advisory Committee* shall consist of the *Program Director* and five (5) citizen members with experience or an interest in youth athletics; those currently serving on the *Parks & Recreation Advisory Board* or volunteering as coaches' in the baseball/softball league are eligible to serve on the *Sports Advisory Committee*.

2.2.3 The *Committee* shall review coaches applications, approve rules, hear protests, etc.

2.3 The *Program Director* shall determine all game times and field locations; **no** schedule changes will be made without the express written consent of the *Program Director*.

3.0 Volunteer Coaches

3.1 No team shall have more than three (3) coaches; one (1) Head Coach and two (2) Assistants.

3.2 All Head and Assistant coaches **must** attend training sessions and satisfactorily complete the training.

3.2.1 The *Department* shall pay all expenses incurred in certifying coaches.

3.3 All persons interested in coaching must submit a formal application prior to the start of the season; applications are subject to approval by the *Knightdale Parks & Recreation Department* and clearance by the *Knightdale Police Department*.

3.4 Coaches are required to maintain the highest standard of conduct: to provide, through their example of fair play and sportsmanship, a positive influence on the youth with whom they are associated.

3.5 All coaches must understand and agree to carry out the duties, responsibilities, and policies, established by the *Knightdale Parks and Recreation Department*. Any coach not carrying out these duties and responsibilities will be subject to dismissal by the *Department*. These duties include, but are not limited to adhering to the *Coaches Code of Ethics Pledge*.

3.6 The Athletic *Director* reserves the right to remove any coach he feels is detrimental to the players or the program. Expelled coaches have the right to appeal to the *Sports Review Committee*. Appeals must be submitted in writing to the Program Director within 72 hours of removal.

3.7 The Head Coach is required to hold a pre-season parents meeting to discuss rules, conduct, responsibilities, and distribute the *Parents Code of Ethics Pledge*. The coach must also distribute the *Players Code of Ethics Pledge* to the participants.

3.8 Only the Head and Assistant coaches and the team scorekeeper will be allowed to sit on the bench (be in the dug-out) during the playing of an official game.

3.9 The use of tobacco products in the dug-out or on the playing field is prohibited.

4.0 Player Eligibility

4.1 League age divisions are as follows:

5 & 6 year old Modified T-Ball

4.2 Modified T-Ball players **must be five (5) years of age on or before May 1 of the current year.**

4.3 In exceptional cases, a player may play in a higher age division with the approval of the parents and the *Athletic Director*. **Children may not "play down" at a lower level.**

4.4 To be eligible to attend skills evaluations, practices and games, a player must meet all eligibility requirements (completed registration, birth certificate and fees are on file).

5.0 Skills Evaluation and Draft

5.1 No skills evaluations will be held in the Modified T-Ball league.

5.2 All registered players will be placed on teams by the *Athletic Director*.

5.2.1 Head Coaches may select both assistant coaches prior to team selection.

5.3 To be eligible to play in the league, players must meet age requirements.

5.4 Team rosters become official at the start of league play, regardless of whether a team plays on opening day. The target number per team is **11-12 players**.

5.4.1 Any additions to the roster after the season begins will be made only by the Program Supervisor.

5.4.2 Players placed on teams during the season must meet all eligibility requirements and be officially added to the roster by the *Athletic Director*. Players will be placed according to their position on the waiting list.

6.0 Uniforms

6.1 All uniform shirts, hats and team equipment shall be purchased by the *Knightdale Parks and Recreation Department*.

6.2 The Head Coach of each team shall be responsible for collecting all equipment and for returning it to the *Athletic Director* within ten (10) days of the last scheduled game. All equipment will be issued on a hand receipt basis, prior to the first day of practice.

7.0 Equipment

- 7.1 The bat shall be round and made of wood or aluminum and marked "official".
- 7.2 Game ball shall be Incredi-ball or Soft-Touch: no official baseballs will be used.
- 7.3 Tennis shoes or shoes with molded cleats are approved for use. Metal spikes and metal toe plates are prohibited in all age divisions.
- 7.4 Defensive players must wear a glove while in the field.

8.0 Playing Rules

8.1 **Mandatory Play Rule:**

- 8.1.1 The mandatory play rule shall be in effect during all league play.
- 8.1.2 A maximum of six (6) players may be in the infield on defense at any one time. The remainder of players will be evenly distributed in the outfield (behind the infielders'). ***Every player plays!***
- 8.1.3 2 coaches will be allowed on the field during a team's defensive play.
- 8.1.4 1 coach will be allowed at the batters tee during offense.
- 8.1.5 No score or standings will be recorded for T-Ball games.

8.2 **Length of Game:**

- 8.2.1 Games shall be one (1) hour or four (4) innings: if an inning starts prior to expiration of the time limit, the inning will be completed but no new inning will start after the time limit expires.
- 8.2.2 If a game has to be called before completion of four (4) innings or the time limit due to weather conditions, the game will be ruled as complete.

8.3 **Innings:**

- 8.3.1 An inning will consist of batting through the entire line-up.
- 8.3.2 If a player is called out they should be removed from the base, this helps them get prepared for the Coach Pitch.

8.4 **Batting Order:**

- 8.4.1 **All** players shall be listed on the batting order.
- 8.4.2 Late players must be added to the end of the line-up.

8.5 **Batting:**

- 8.51 **The batter will receive 3-4 under hand pitches. If the batter does not put the ball in play he/she will use the tee for 3 swings. After that he/she is out.**
- 8.5.2 A coach may adjust the tee for the batter and position the player in the batter's box: he must move out of the playing area before play begins.

- 8.5.3 The coach shall place the ball on the tee after the 3-4 under hand pitches.
- 8.5.4 The batter must take a full stroke: bunting is not allowed.
- 8.5.5 The batter shall be allowed to level the bat with the ball (half swing) only two (2) times.
- 8.5.6 A batter who misses the ball when swinging at it shall be charged with a strike. A batter who swings and hits the tee without making contact with the ball shall be charged with a strike.
- 8.5.7 If after three (3) attempts, the batter fails to make contact with the ball, he/she will be called out.
- 8.5.8 A batter who throws the bat will be issued warnings during the first week of the season. Any batter throwing the bat after this period will be automatically called out.
- 8.5.9 Batting line-ups must be kept in order: any batter who bats out of order will be out and all base runners will be brought back.
- 8.5.10 All batters must wear a batters helmet

8.6 Base Running:

- 8.6.1 Any runner is out when he/she runs more than three (3) feet out of the baseline to avoid being tagged **unless** such action is taken to avoid interference with a player fielding a batted ball. Intentional interference shall result in the player being called out.
- 8.6.2 A base runner that passes another runner is out.
- 8.6.3 A base runner may advance one (1) base on an overthrown ball that goes out of the field of play.
- 8.6.4 A base runner may advance a maximum of 1 (one) base on an overthrow.
- 8.6.5 Base stealing is not permitted. A base runner must be in contact with the base at the time the ball is hit by the batter.
- 8.6.6 Tagging up on a caught fly ball is required before the runner may attempt to advance.
- 8.6.7 If a base runner has passed the halfway mark on the baseline before time is called, he/she may proceed to the next base. Play stops when the pitcher has control of the ball within the circle.
- 8.6.8 A runner who is out should return to the team bench.

8.7 Playing Field:

- 8.7.1 Bases shall be set at sixty (60) feet.
- 8.7.2 The pitchers circle shall be 46' from the back point of home plate. The player playing the pitcher's position must stand within the 10 foot pitcher's circle.(near the mound)
- 8.7.3 The catcher's box shall be six (6) feet behind the tee. No catcher used in this league.
- 8.7.4 Foul, strike, fair ball arc shall be made on a ten (10) foot radius from the back point of home plate.

8.8 Rule Changes:

- 8.8.1 Proposed rule changes should be submitted in writing to the *Athletic Director* for his review.
- 8.8.2 Rule changes must be approved by the Parks and Rec Board and *Athletic Director* prior to the start of the season.

8.8.3 Mid-season rule changes will only be considered if the current situation poses a threat to the health, safety or well-being of participants.

9.0 **Forfeiture**

9.1 There shall be a fifteen (15) minute grace period for the first game only; all other games, game time is the time listed on the game schedule. In the event a team has less than 8 players at game time, the game will be played at the coaches' discretion. Both teams have the option to evenly divide the players present and play until the next scheduled game time.

9.1.1 Scheduled game times will be delayed only if the preceding game is still in progress.

9.1.2 Starting time may precede regular scheduled game time if mutually agreed upon by both coaches.

9.2 A team failing to or unable to continuously field at least eight (8) eligible players shall forfeit the game.

10.0 **Field Supervisor**

10.1 The *Parks & Recreation Department* shall assign a Field Supervisor to the athletic complexes utilized for league play.

10.2 The Field Supervisor shall wear a *Knightdale Parks & Recreation Department* staff shirt while working; he shall identify himself to each coach and official prior to the start of play.

10.3 The Field Supervisor shall be responsible for furnishing game balls.

10.4 The Field Supervisor is responsible for filling out accident reports on all injuries suffered at the facility.

10.5 After each game, the Field Supervisor will prepare a list of field needs to turn in to the *Program Director*. Any safety hazards or emergency repairs should be reported immediately.

10.6 The Field Supervisor shall turn on lights when needed at the top of the inning; lights should never be turned on when there is sufficient natural lighting.

10.6.1 The Field Supervisor shall be responsible for turning off all lights following games and securing the facility.

10.7 The Field Supervisor is responsible for enforcing all regulations of the *Knightdale Parks & Recreation Department* and *Wake County Schools*.

10.7.1 The Field Supervisor shall enforce the ban on the use of tobacco products on the playing field and in the dug-out.

11.0 **Facility Regulations**

11.1 Use of fields for practices and games must be scheduled through the *Athletic Director*.

11.2 Parking regulations will be enforced by the *Knightdale Police Department* for the safety and well being of participants and area residents.

11.2.1 Additional parking is available at the lower field and the bus parking lot; please do not park in the driveway or posted areas as this limits access for emergency vehicles, should they be needed.

12.0 All-Stars

12.1 **No All-Star teams will be selected or sanctioned in the T-Ball league.**

13.0 Awards

13.1 All children who have registered for the Modified T-Ball league will receive awards for their participation.

13.2 The *Athletic Director* will select all awards to include: trophies, medals and patches distributed by the *Department*.

14.0 Code of Conduct

The Town of Knightdale Parks & Recreation Department requires officials to enforce all rules regarding unsportsmanlike conduct by players, coaches and spectators. Specifically, trash talking, taunting, baiting, demeaning celebration, and vulgar and profane gestures and/or language may be penalized without warning. Fighting or other malicious conduct will result in an ejection. If any coach protests a penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct, he or she is subject to being ejected from the contest. It is strongly suggested that you remind your teammates, parents, spectators, and coaches of this policy. An ejection from the game is an ejection from the playing site and other ejection penalties will apply.

Principles of Fair Play

- 1. Respect the rules.**
- 2. Respect the officials and their decisions.**
- 3. Respect your opponent.**
- 4. Give everyone an equal chance to participate.**
- 5. Maintain your self-control at all times.**

14.1 No coach, spectator or player shall refuse to abide by an Official's or Field Supervisor's decision.

14.2 No coach, player or spectator shall be guilty of objectionable demonstrations of dissent at an Official's decision.

14.3 No player, other than the team captain, shall discuss with an Official in any manner the decision reached by the Official.

14.4 No player shall be guilty of using unnecessary rough tactics in the play of the game.

Penalty: For the unsportsmanlike acts enumerated in items 14.1 through 14.4, the coach or player shall be ejected from the game and must immediately leave the area.

***Note: Removal from the game is an automatic suspension from the next game that the team plays. A suspension from the game is also a suspension from the playing site.**

14.5 No coach, player or spectator shall be guilty of personal verbal abuse upon an umpire or league official for any real or imaginary wrong decision or judgment.

14.6 No coach, player or spectator shall at any time lay a hand on, push, shove, strike, or threaten to strike another coach, player, spectator, umpire or league official.

14.7 No coach, player or spectator shall be guilty of any physical attack as an aggressor upon any player, coach, spectator, umpire or league official.

Penalty: For violation of rules 14.5 through 14.7, the coach, player or spectator shall be automatically suspended for the remainder of the season. If the circumstances so warrant, the suspension may include all competitive programs offered by the *Knightdale Parks & Recreation Department*.

***Note:** A suspension from the game is also a suspension from the playing site.

14.7.1 Seasonal suspension may be appealed to the *Baseball Sports Review Committee*. Appeals must be submitted in writing to the Program Director within 72 hours of suspension.

14.8 Unruly, arrogant and/or obscene spectators will be dealt with by the team coaches immediately or the team that has the support of those spectators will forfeit the game. In the case of unruly spectators, the Umpire shall call time and give the coaches two (2) minutes to remove the offensive party from the premises. If they are unable to control the situation, the game will be called a forfeit.

14.9 If a suspended individual is present at the playing site, the Field Supervisor and/or umpire have the authority to request that the individual leave the premises. It is the responsibility of the team coaches to remove the individual within two (2) minutes of being notified of the unauthorized person's attendance or forfeit the game being played.

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